



NEWS FROM THE SEA ISLAND SUMMIT PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Jamie Parks, Director of Food and Beverage, Savannah International Trade and Convention Center

Years of experience in managing food and beverage operations across the country coupled with his world class culinary talents have led SITCC Executive Chef Jamie Parks to his new position as Director of Food and Beverage at the Convention Center. Following his promotion, Parks new responsibilities include overseeing the day-to-day operations of *Savor Savannah*, the in-house gourmet catering company managed by SMG, and supervising all food and beverage staff.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Parks brings more than 25 years experience as a chef and manager to his new job. Before joining the SMG staff, he served as Club Manager at the exclusive First City Club in Savannah, Development Executive Chef for Club Corporation of America, Executive Chef for the prestigious Governors Club of the Palm Beaches and Executive Chef of The Bankers Club in Miami. “Jamie is not only a remarkable chef, he’s a superb manager with the foresight and expertise to handle our ever-growing food and beverage operation,” said Convention Center General Manager Bob Coffey. “He has been instrumental in helping establish us as one of the Southeast’s premiere venues for conventions, meetings and special events. Jamie’s culinary skills and professional staff help set us apart.” An award-winning chef recognized by some of the world’s most renowned culinary institutions, Parks has been delighting conventioners with his creative cuisine since the grand opening of the facility in the spring of 2000. Many of the specialty menu items offered by Savor Savannah are original recipes developed by the master chef in the years he worked at exclusive private clubs and fine restaurants across the country.

“As we continue to grow, it’s my job to ensure that our food and beverage service retains the ability to accommodate a variety of groups,” Parks said. “We cater to individual needs, whether that’s high end fare, regional cuisine or international favorites. It’s what we do and it’s one of our biggest selling points.”

Located on the northern shore of the Savannah River across from the city’s famed River Street and Historic District, the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center blends the best of the old South with the latest in technology in a world-class facility. The 330,000-square-foot complex features 100,000 square feet of divisible exhibit space, 50,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, a 25,000-square-foot Grand Ballroom and a high-tech 367 fixed-seat amphitheater/auditorium.

The Savannah International Trade and Convention Center and Savor Savannah are managed by SMG, the world’s largest private manager of public assembly facilities. With 160 venues, SMG represents more than 1.3 million entertainment seats worldwide, and more than nine million square feet of exhibit space. For additional company information, visit www.smgworld.com.